

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 SP-02 COME-00
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /108 W
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R 020801Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7532
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT LOUIS 0624

8. RICE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION DATA (THOUSAND MT)

CY - 73 - 74 - 75 - 76 - 77

CARRYOVER - 10.6 - 4.6 - 22.1 - 15.2 - 17.0
PRODUCTION & - 0.9 - 0.7 - 0.5 - .5 - 0.3
IMPORTS - 58.1 - 86.8 - 66.1 - 78.9 - 75.3
CONSUMPTION - 65.0 - 70.0 - 73.6 - 77.6 - 80.5
CARRYOVER - 4.6 - 22.1 - 15.2 - 17.0 - 12.1
& - LOSSES FOR FEED SEED AND WASTE ARE NEGLIGIBLE.

9. MAJOR COMMERCIAL IMPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. (QUANTITIES IN THOUSAND MT)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN CY - 73 - 74 - 75 - 76 - 77
BURMA - 24.6 - 16.0 - 27.0 - 26.8 - 25.6
CHINA (PRC) 5.0 - 46.0 - 12.0 - 12.0 - 12.5
PAKISTAN - 25.0 - 0 - 0 - 0 - 0
THAILAND - 0 - 24.0 - 24.0 - 37.5 - 12.5

NOTE: FIGURES PARA 8 AND 9 SUPPLIED BY DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY,
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

10. COMMERCIAL PRIVATE TRADERS: COMMERCIAL TRADERS BUY HIGH QUALITY RICE FOR SPECIALIZED RETAIL MARKET. IMPORTS AMOUNT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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5 TO 6 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS. RICE SOLD BY PRIVATE TRADERS
HAS NO GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY. FIVE YEAR AVERAGE IS 2.920 MT WITH
PURCHASES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT FREE WORLD, PAKISTAN AVERAGING
1.360 MT. TOTAL FIVE YEAR PURCHASES FROM U.S. 400 MT.

11. GOM IS WELL EQUIPPED WITH PORT HANDLING FACILITIES FOR
RICE; PORT IS CURRENTLY NOT CONGESTED. WITH TRADITIONAL
ANNUAL RICE IMPORTS OF OVER 70,000 MT, INTERNAL HANDLING,
STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION ARE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE. IMPORTS
REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED PRESENT NO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS OR

ISSUES TO GOM AND ITS DEPARTMENT SUPPLY WITHIN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

12. GOM HAS REQUESTED THAT RICE PURCHASED UNDER PL 480 BE NO. 3 OR 5, LONG OR MEDIUM GRAIN, 25 TO 30 PERCENT BROKEN. IN ORDER TO AVAIL ITSELF OF MAXIMUM OCEAN FREIGHT ADVANTAGES, IS ALSO REQUESTS CONSIDERATION FOR SHIPMENT OF TOTAL 12,500 MT SINGLE CHARGER, U.S. FLAG IF AVAILABLE, WITH CALCULATED DIFFERENTIAL TO BE PAID BY CCC.

13. IT IS STRESSED THAT THE GOM HAS ENCOURAGED A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM WHICH HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH. GOM IS CONTEMPLATING ADDITIONAL MEASURES WHICH EXTEND VOLUNTARY ABORTIONS AND STERILIZATION. (SEE REF C, POPULATION AND FOOD.)

14. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT PROCEEDS FROM PL 480 SALES SHOULD BE CHanneled INTO PROJECTS DESIGNED TO:

A. IMPROVE FARMGATE INCENTIVE PRICE POLICIES TO SMALL LAND HOLDERS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING LIVESTOCK.

B. EXPAND APPROPRIATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES
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RELATED TO IMPROVED YIELDS RICE, CORN, ROOT CROPS, VEGETABLES; IMPROVE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO SMALL FARMERS.

C. STRENGTHEN MARKETING, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR SMALL FARMERS ENGAGED IN ROOT CROP, VEGETABLE AND OTHER PRODUCE PRODUCTION.

D. DEVELOP CREDIT AND OTHER PROGRAMS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE SMALL FARMERS TO DIVERSIFY FROM SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION.

15. WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE SPECIFIC PROJECTS, GOM HOPES TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

A. INCREASE DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION;

B. RAISE INCOME LEVEL OF THE RURAL POOR;

C. PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION AWAY FROM PRODUCTION OF SUGAR, A COMMODITY WHICH IS IN WORLD SURPLUS;

D. PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WHO ARE UNDER-EMPLOYED DURING THE SIX MONTHS WHEN THERE IS NO SUGAR HARVEST;

E. AID RURAL DEVELOPMENT;

F. IMPROVE NUTRITION BY MAKING LOWER2PRICED DOMESTICALLY
PRODUCED FOOD AVAILABLE TO REPLWCE MORE EXPENSIVE
IMPORTS.

16. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS READING OF REF C, A REPORT ON GOM
APPROACH TO PRESSING GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF POPULATION GROWTH AND
ADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION, AS SUPPLEMENTARY TO AND SUPPORTIVE OF
THIS PROPOSAL FOR A PL 480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR MAURITIUS.
KEELEY
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